

Part-time work in Switzerland

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objekttyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **38 (1974)**

Heft [11]

PDF erstellt am: **13.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942143>

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part no doubt under the influence of the textile branch — in the Baden—Zurich—Winterthur—Schaffhausen area, in North-Eastern Switzerland and in the region of Basle. Other parts of the country, however, are by no means devoid of production plants, and in general the mechanical engineering and metal industries may be said to cover the whole country, holding the industrial lead in no less than threequarters of all Swiss cantons.

These industries also take first place among Swiss exporters. On the average 75 per cent of their total production is exported, and for some products the figure is practically 100 per cent. The industries account for 40 per cent of all Swiss products that are shipped abroad. It is also worth recording that for some types of machinery Swiss makes represent up to 17 per cent of the world's total exports. In all modesty, these figures may be taken as proof of the good quality of Swiss machine products and of the high reputation they enjoy in the world at large. As would be expected from Switzerland's geographical position, most of the exports (about 70 per cent) go to European countries; but there are customers in all the other continents too. This latter group of countries is headed by the United States and Japan.

Exports alone, however, give a very incomplete picture of Switzerland's trade relations with other countries. For a variety of reasons, many Swiss firms have founded affiliates abroad and have participated both in individual companies and joint ventures. The production of these enterprises and the export of know-how, as reflected in the licence business, are today gaining rapidly in importance.

Finally, it is worth noting that, while Switzerland's revenue from machine and metal exports is considerable, the country spends even more for the import of machines and equipment. It has proved an advantage to concentrate the Swiss inland production on a certain range of machinery and to obtain the rest—in many cases products manufactured in large series — from foreign sources.

Erwin Kradolfer.

Part-Time Work In Switzerland

During the latest Federal census of the population, 2,995,777 gainfully employed persons were counted in Switzerland. According to the detailed results that have just been published, 2,630,959 of them were employed full time and 364,818 part time (working hours considerably shorter than the normal daily or weekly average). In 1970 therefore part-time workers represented some 12 per cent of the total working population and consisted mainly of housewives, persons of independent means and the retired. The major part of those employed part time worked in the services sector. Women accounted for 78.6 per cent of this category of employee. Whereas only 4 per cent of all men exercising a lucrative activity are employed in part-time work, the figure for women amounts to 28 per cent. (SODT).